

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

Vol. 41 No. 11

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Whole No. 482

"Wanted: A Hero"

By Jack R. Schorr



DIME NOVEL SETCHES NO. 154

THE BLACK HIGHWAYMAN NOVELS

Publisher: Ornum & Co., Beekman St., New York, N. Y. Issues: 26. Dates: 1873?. Schedule of Issue: Unknown (probably semi-monthly). Size: 6½x4¼". Price: 10c. Pages: 100. Illustrations: hand-stenciled colored pictorial cover. Contents: Reprint of an English penny dreadful.

"Wanted: A Hero"

By Jack R. Schorr

Some of the ideals and virtues that helped mould and form our parents and grandparents into decent law-abiding citizens came out of the pages of some of the books they read in their youth. Within the pages of the early juveniles you could find heroes, who loved their country, respected its flag, who worked for a living, spurned charity and the dole and respected womanhood.

Here are a few excerpts from some of the early juveniles that spread their influence.

From "The Great Scoop" by Molly Seawell, a story of a young boy breaking into the newspaper business with not a spare dime. He lived with his 16-year-old sister Mary, who ran the household, his younger brother Dick, and sister Jane. Mary, the capable sister was ambitious. It was she who preached to Hugh ever since they had been left fatherless and motherless two years before. "Now, Hugh," she would say, "You are the brightest of all, and the best looking. I don't want you to be just wasting yourself doing a day's work here and there. I want you to be at something that will be a business for you. We've got the house and we can let rooms and do lots of things, just to keep from starving and in three or four years you'll be started and be able to give Dick a hand, then some day we'll have a nice home, and live as we did in Papa's time."

They were very poor, the story goes; they only had the house. But it never occurred to them to ask for charity, or do anything but work. Sometimes they had enough to eat

and sometimes they were really in need. Dick went to public school, although his jacket was worn and his shoes the worst in the school, and so did his sister Jane. Mary, the 16-year-old, kept them all going and above all kept them together as a family unit.

These type stories, had their heroes, and influenced their young readers, so that when adversity came, they did not expect a handout.

These stories are dubbed unrealistic today. The young are taught to look to the government for help, anywhere but to themselves to solve their problem.

In "Dave Porter Under Fire" Chapter IX entitled Pure Patriotism, there is a scene in which a group of speakers on a platform were discussing the draft during World War I. There were several speakers against the draft, including none other than that dispicable Nat Poole, Dave's old enemy. This discussion ran thusly:—"And now they talk about drafting us," Nat bawled, shaking his fist in the air, "They shan't do it. I guess we are free American citizens and we have a right to say whether we want to fight or not." (Sound familiar?) "The government hasn't got no right to draft men for the Army." In like vein, various other speakers spoke out against the war and the draft. Dave could take it no longer and spoke up, "I am going to challenge what that speaker is saying. His talk isn't on the square. I think it's an outrage that anyone is allowed to talk this way." Dave jumped on the platform and addressed the crowd, "That fel-

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low is nothing but a slacker. In these trying times I think every man ought to stand by the government." The story goes on to say how Dave tried to debate Nat and his cronies, and Nat, seeing he didn't have a chance became very intemperate in his remarks, and a free-for-all developed and the platform was pulled down and Nat chased off.

If this happened today, Nat would have the American Civil Liberties Union to back him up and I am sure get representation from the National Lawyers Guild, because his "rights" had been violated. Dave solved the problem to my complete satisfaction and I can, I am sure, speak for my father, bless his soul. Boys were taught to respect and defend their country thru these stories.

In "Ned, Bob and Jerry in the Army" in the chapter entitled A Fight in the Dark, a bunch of pro-German speakers were speaking out against our involvement in World War I. A Mr. Schaeffer, one of the speakers, said "This war is not a good war. (Where have I heard that before?) We should not go abroad to fight Germany, our country is doing wrong and we should not uphold her." "Treason, treason!" came the cries from all over the hall. "I guess it's time to start something," said Ned. The story goes on to relate that a friend of the Motor Boys, a Colonel Wentworth, spoke up and said "I call on all Americans to end the seditious talk." "We're with you to the finish," remarked one of the Motor Boys. It developed into a free-for-all and the Motor Boys gave the traitors a good trouncing. One humorous thing was that a chap standing next to Jerry, whose voice was unmistakable German and who remarked to Jerry, "It's a shame to stop our speakers." "Oh, is it?" remarked Jerry. "Say, what kind of an American are you?" asked Ned. "Chust as goot vat you are," came the answer.

Anyhow, whatever criticism of these boys books were, they gave our parents and grandparents a feeling that we had a country to be proud of, a country that would and did back the

citizens up in time of troubles and whose flag they respected.

I can find no evidence, except in some isolated publications, of this influence today and I feel they are missing an important and vital virtue in their lives.

NEWSY NOTES

George Gloss, the country's No. 1 Antiquarian Bookman has been making headlines again. This time, in the Christian Science Monitor, on the occasion of his giving away thousands of books on a first come, first serve basis. You could only take what you could carry. I can see the dilemma posed by a collector in the boys book section who has to decide which of the prize items he has to leave behind.

Robert Sargent Shriver called a middle-aged Frank Merriwell quoted by Rich Harwood of the Los Angeles Times-Washington Post News Service.

Back numbers Reckless Ralph's Dime Novel Roundup (quite a few reprints, can't be helped). Don't have the complete set of No. 1 to 237 inclusive, but almost, lacking only a few numbers. 10c each or \$21.00 postpaid. Have at least 230 numbers or more. Also two indexes, 1 Pioneer and Scouts of the Old West, Birthday number, War Library list and Dime Novel Catalog.

Ralph F. Cummings
161 Pleasant St., So. Grafton, Mass.
01560

FOR SALE

Merriwell stories in Tip Top Weekly. Early and late numbers. Send want list; too many to catalog. Good condition and reasonable prices. Also WANTED: in nice condition, Nick Carter stories in Magnet and New Magnet Library and Merriwell stories in Medal and New Medal Library and Merriwell series.

GUINON
Box 214, Little Rock, Ark. 72203

THE SAGA OF FRANK MERRIWELL

No. 2. April 25, 1896. Frank Merriwell's Foe; or, Plebe Life in Barracks.

Locale: Fardale.

Time: Freshman year at Fardale. 16 years old.

Principal Characters: Bart Hodge, Barney Mulloy, Hans Dunnerwust, Inza Burrage, Ned Gray, Walter Burrage.

Frank, Ned Gray, Barney Mulloy and Bart Hodge find themselves quartered in the same room. Bart is angry at this and derides the Academy for its policies of having four in a room. In this mood he has an exchange of words with Frank and in a fit of anger throws a chair at Frank hitting and breaking a mirror. A cadet corporal investigates and Frank takes the blame for the racket. For punishment he is made to walk post until tattoo. There he encounters Hans Dunnerwust who is also walking post. To have a little fun he throws his voice and in the ensuing confusion Hans runs into Prof. Gunn knocking him down a stairway with Hans on top of him.

That evening Frank has another encounter with Bart over the putting out of the lamp at taps. In the dark he knocks Bart out with one blow. Later that night the Jolly Friends of Fardale awaken Bart and Frank and force them to a boathouse to be hazed. Bart threatens and fumes but Frank takes it all good naturedly. At the boathouse the hazers are having fun with Hans by having him sing. Frank again brings ventriloquism into play and the howling of dog and ghostly mutterings almost disrupts the hazing party. In the confusion Bart rips the mask from the leader and reveals Cadet Walter Burrage, brother of Inza. He says he will report him and Burrage seems in a bad way. Merriwell and Dunnerwust both state they have no intention of squealing bringing cheers from the hazers. A signal is received indicating an inspection of bunks is being made at the barracks. Burrage has a hurried consultation with Hodge and both seem satisfied

with the outcome. All return without incident.

That weekend, Frank lightheartedly goes to see Inza at her home. He is very much disturbed when he is told she is indisposed. He hires a saddle horse and decides to spend the afternoon riding in the country. Before leaving the village he meets Inza riding with Bart Hodge in a handsome team. This makes him a little bitter and he decides all girls are fickle. Later in the afternoon he sees Hodge's team careening toward a railway crossing in charge of a runaway horse. A train is approaching the crossing and it seems inevitable that Inza and Bart will be killed. Bart jumps from the team leaving Inza to her fate. Frank, however, reaches the side of the team and at his command, Inza jumps from the team into his outstretched arms. The team rushes on and is mangled by the train. Inza has been saved. Hodge regretting his action slinks away. A Dr. Haskell who has seen the brave act is boundless in his enthusiasm and says he will recommend Frank to Congress for a medal. Hodge believes Frank will make a show of his cowardly act but nothing of the kind is mentioned. Inza hesitantly explains that in order to save her brother from expulsion for his hazing party, Bart had agreed not to snitch if she accorded him the pleasure of her company and that she would cut Frank. She says she will never have anything to do with Bart and that she would always be at home to Frank in the future.

First appearance of Hans Dunnerwust.

OLD PULP MAGAZINES WANTED

and for sale, such as Doc Savage, Shadow, Spider, Phantom, Western Story, Wild West, G-8, Wings, science fiction, "spicy" mags and many others in the all-fiction field. Must be in excellent condition. What have you? Send list and price wanted.

Back Numbers

P. O. Box 214, Little Rock, Ark. 72203

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Eddie,

As usual the ROUND-UP is full of good things . . . the Merriwell series from Smith Street is still active, and I now have the first three titles on my shelves. I did order the first 10 a few months back, with extra copies for the Library where I work, but the check was returned saying #4 had not been published yet and I would be notified as to its appearance. I hope this does continue, as I would like to be able to fill in some missing volumes in my Merriwell collection with these.

On Nick Carter in AINSLEE'S MAGAZINE: There were only five of these stories, not eight. They were signed "Charles Westbrook," one of the few times that the "Nicholas Carter" signature was not used. As far as I can tell, Westbrook was a house name, since the stories were all later reprinted in Street & Smith's DETECTIVE STORY MAGAZINE as by "Sergeant Ryan" . . . The "Ryan" name was used on other reprinted Nick Carter stories in DETECTIVE STORY, as well, when several short stories from the NEW YORK WEEKLY appeared there. Bruce Elliott wrote 3 Nick Carters for THE SHADOW MAGAZINE and seems to be the only author allowed to sign his real name to a Nick Carter story!

AINSLEE'S was an interesting magazine, probably a Street & Smith version of SCRIBNER'S or COSMOPOLITAN or THE AMERICAN or THE STRAND . . . printed on slick paper, well illustrated. I must admit that SCRIBNER'S is probably not exactly the same type as my other three examples, but as far as appearance was concerned the format was similar . . . and it may have been intended (AINSLEE'S that is) to appeal to the same market.

Best wishes,
Randolph Cox

P.S. Nick Carter stories in Ainslee's:
Nov. 1900—Convicted by a Camera
Dec. 1900—After the Bachelor Dinner
Jan. 1901—The Mysterious Highwayman

Feb. 1901—The Financier's Memorandum

Mar. 1901—The Testimony of a Mouse

Dear Mr. LeBlanc:

On Page 74 of the 8/15/72 Dime Novel Round-Up, under the heading, News Notes, you make the wholly inaccurate statement that "Evidently the reprinting of the Merriwell Series Street Smith Publications has been discontinued. We have seen or heard no reports of the issuance of No. 2 . . ."

Not only is this statement completely untrue but the fact is that Nos. 1, 2, and 3 (respectively, FRANK MERRIWELL'S SCHOOLDAYS, FRANK MERRIWELL'S CHUMS, and FRANK MERRIWELL'S FOES) have been published in both paperback (\$.95) and casebound (\$3.95) editions, and are available immediately.

So that you may make a retraction of your misinformation, we are sending you herewith (gratis) copies of each of these volumes.

The Merriwell Series is being published in seriatim form, and we are waiting for favorable marketing conditions to publish and issue the succeeding volumes.

It is our intention to publish the entire series of 245 volumes in the Merriwell Series.

Incidentally, to more precisely and meaningfully identify our company, we have changed our corporate name from Smith Street Publications, Inc., to Frank Merriwell Incorporated.

Would you please publish the substance of this letter in the next issue of the Dime Novel Round-Up.

Sincerely,

Jack Rudman, President
Frank Merriwell, Inc.
20 DuPont St.
Plainview, N. Y. 11803

FOR SALE

Back numbers "Readers Digest" also
"Popular Mechanics" cheap.

Eli A. Messier
Box 1122, Woonsocket, R. I. 02895

RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES CONCERNING DIME NOVELS, ETC. Sunday, September 17, 1972. The author reviews the Alger books in a short article and refers the interested reader to Ralph Gardner's book for more information on prices, etc.

READERS REGAIN INTEREST IN HORATIO ALGER'S STORIES, by Roslyn in the Albany Times-Union,

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

369. David E. Johnson, 222 North Main St., West Bridgewater, Mass. 02379 (New Member)
370. Victor E. Wangner, 22 Harold Place, Clifton, N. J. 07013 (New Member)
371. Poor Man's Shop, Old Plymouth St., Halifax, Mass. 02338 (New Member)

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BEACH, EDWARD L., Lieut. Cmdr.

Annapolis Plebe, An. Penn., somewhat shaken. Back cover loose ---- 2.00

Lieutenant Ralph Osborn Aboard A Torpedo Boat Destroyer. W. A.

Wilde. Mint ----- 4.00

BONNER, RICHARD

The Boy Inventors' Diving Torpedo Boat. Donohue. Mint, d/j ----- 3.00

BOWEN, R. SIDNEY

Dave Dawson at Casablanca. Saalfeld. Good blue covers. d/j ----- 2.00

Dave Dawson at Dunkirk. Crown. Blue covers. Ex. cond. ----- 2.50

Dave Dawson at Dunkirk. Saalfeld. Green covers. Covers loose ---- 1.00

Dave Dawson at Dunkirk. Saalfeld. Blue covers. Shows wear ----- 1.00

Dave Dawson at Singapore. Saalfeld. Light blue covers. Good, d/j -- 2.00

Dave Dawson at Singapore. Saalfeld. Red covers. Fair ----- 1.50

Dave Dawson, Flight Lieutenant. Saalfeld. Lt. Blue covers, fair ---- 1.00

Dave Dawson, Flight Lieutenant. Saalfeld. Brown covers, good ---- 1.50

Dave Dawson in Libya. Crown. Green covers, small ed. Good ----- 1.50

Dave Dawson in Libya. Crown. Grey covers. Small ed. Good ----- 1.50

Dave Dawson in Libya. Saalfeld. Red covers. VG, d/j ----- 2.00

Dave Dawson in Libya. Saalfeld. Blue covers. VG, d/j ----- 2.00

Dave Dawson on Convoy Patrol. Saalfeld. Blue covers. Fair ----- 1.50

Dave Dawson on the Russian Front. Crown. Brown covers. Ex. d/j -- 2.50

Dave Dawson with the Commandos. Crown. Lt. blue covers. Good, d/j 2.50

Dave Dawson with the Commandos. Saalfeld. Blue covers. Good ---- 1.50

Dave Dawson with the Commandoes. Saalfeld. Green covers. Good -- 1.50

Dave Dawson with the Air Corps. Crown. Blue covers. Mint ----- 2.00

Dave Dawson with the Flying Tigers. Saalfeld. Red covers. Good -- 1.50

Dave Dawson with the Flying Tigers. Saalfeld. Blue covers. Fair -- 1.00

Dave Dawson with the R. A. F. Saalfeld. Lt. Blue covers. Good, d/j 2.00

Red Randall at Pearl Harbor. G&D. Green covers. VG ----- 2.00

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Red Randall in the Aleutians. Green Covers. G&D. Ex. d/j ----- 2.50

Red Randall on Active Duty. G&D. Green covers. VG ----- 2.00

STORY PAPERS WANTED

Alger material in boy's story papers wanted—full runs or single issues.

1. ARGOSY:

Vol. 9, Nos. 365-377—Nov. 30, 1889—Feb. 22, 1890.

Vol. 14, Nos. 501-503—July 23—Aug. 6, 1892.

Vol. 15, No. 524—Dec. 17, 1892.

Vol. 17, Nos. 569-581—Oct. 21, 1893—Jan. 20, 1894.

Vol. 18, Nos. 1-5—April—August, 1894.

2. ARMY & NAVY WEEKLY:

Vol. 1, Nos. 31-33—Jan. 15—Jan. 29, 1898.

3. BALLOU'S DOLLAR MONTHLY:

Jan., 1855; Feb., 1856; April, 1856.

4. BOSTON WEEKLY GLOBE:

Nov. 29—Dec. 21, 1894 (The Hermit's Heir)

May 22—June 24, 1882 (The Star of the Circus)

Dec. 29, 1887.

5. BOYS HOME WEEKLY (Westbrook)—Nos. 1 thru 40.

6. BRAVE AND BOLD WEEKLY:

Nos. 39, 45, 54, 57, 58, 59, 60, 63, 65, 68, 88 94 100 105.

7. THE FLAG OF OUR UNION:

1854—Jan. 14, Feb. 4, Mar. 25, May 27, July 8, July 15, Aug. 26, Sep. 9, Oct. 7, Nov. 18.

8. FRANK LESLIE'S ILLUSTRATED NEWSPAPER—Dec. 1864.

9. FRANK LESLIE'S TEN CENT MONTHLY—May 1865.

10. GLEASON'S HOME CIRCLE:

Feb. 11, 1860

Oct. 23, 1869

1871—Blanche Trevor's Love

1872—Paul's Picture

Nov., 1874—The Brown's; or, Boarding in the Country

1880—The Frightful Caricature

11. GLEASON'S LITERARY COMPANION:

1860—Jan. 7, Jan. 14, Jan. 21, Jan. 28, Feb. 4, Feb. 11, Feb. 18, Feb. 25, Mar. 3, Mar. 10, Mar. 17, Mar. 31, Apr. 7, Apr. 21, Apr. 28, May 5, May 19, May 26, June 2, June 9, July 14, Aug. 4, Aug. 25, Sept. 15, Oct. 13, Nov. 10, Dec. 1, Dec. 29.

1861—Jan. 5, Jan. 19

1864—following stories: Edward's Temptation, John Hayden's Cigar

1865—July 29, Nov. 18, Dec. 30.

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